

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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Z 281244Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 8550

S E C R E T ATHENS 3243

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: GREEK SIDE DEFERS TATOI QUESTION  
AND REQUESTS IMMEDIATE US CONCURRENCE IN PUBLIC STATEMENT ON  
ROUND II

REF: A. ATHENS 3228; B. ATHENS 3219

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF WASHDC

1. AT THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING THIS MORNING, STEARNS ADVISED  
CALOGERAS THAT NO REPEAT NO WORD HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED FROM  
WASHINGTON ON THE AREA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (ATO) AT  
TATOI. HE SAID TO CALOGERAS THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN  
A WASHINGTON RESPONSE WOULD BE RECEIVED, BUT, WITH TIME  
RUNNING OUT IN ROUND II AND PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ANXIOUS  
TO SAY SOMETHING PUBLICLY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, IT WOULD BE  
REALISTIC TO CONSIDER WHAT COULD BE DONE IF NO WASHINGTON  
RESPONSE WAS RECEIVED BEFORE THE END OF ROUND II. THE  
ALTERNATIVES SEEMED CLEAR: EITHER ROUND II COULD RECESS  
WITHOUT A PUBLIC STATEMENT OR THE GREEK SIDE COULD DROP  
ITS INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING TATOI IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT  
ANNOUNCING THE RESULTS OF ROUND II.

2. AT THIS POINT IN THE PLENARY, CALOGERAS AND STEARNS WERE  
CALLED OUT OF THE MEETING TO SEE BITSIOS. STEARNS

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PUT TO BITSIOS THE SAME ALTERNATIVES HE HAD MENTIONED TO

CALOGERAS. BITSIOS SAID THAT CARAMANLIS WANTED VERY MUCH TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON ROUND II TOMORROW, APRIL 29. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT STILL WISHED TO OBTAIN THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE AMERICAN CONCURRENCE TO RELINQUISHING THE TATOI PROPERTY AND MOVING THE ATO FACILITY TO NEA MAKHRI. NEVERTHELESS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE GREEK SIDE HAD GIVEN US ONLY A SHORT TIME TO LOOK INTO THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RELOCATING THE ATO FACILITY FROM TATOI TO NEA MAKHRI, BITSIOS WAS PREPARED TO TRY TO PERSUADE CARAMANLIS TO OMIT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO TATOI FROM A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF ROUND II. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT CHANGE THE GREEK POSITION THAT WE MUST LEAVE TATOI OR LESSEN THE GREEK DESIRE TO RECEIVE A PROMPT AND FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THEIR REQUEST THAT WE AGREE TO DO SO.

3. BITSIOS AND STEARNS THEN WENT OVER THE GREEK AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF WHAT THE GREEK AND AMERICAN SIDES BELIEVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A JOINT STATEMENT AT THE END OF ROUND II. STEARNS STRESSED TO BITSIOS THAT HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF THE COMPRESSED DRAFT FINAL COMMUNIQUE (REF. B) AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO CABLE TO WASHINGTON ANY CHANGES IN THE COMPRESSED DRAFT WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE GREEK SIDE. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING CARAMANLIS AT 1230 PM THE SAME DAY, AND THAT HE HOPED WASHINGTON'S CLEARANCE COULD BE OBTAINED THIS AFTERNOON. STEARNS SAID THAT ELIMINATING ANY REFERENCE TO TATOI SHOULD SIMPLIFY THE CLEARANCE PROCEDURE, BUT HE COULD NOT REPEAT NOT GUARANTEE BITSIOS THAT WASHINGTON WOULD ACCEPT WITHOUT CHANGE WHATEVER TEXT OF A FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS INFORMALLY WORKED OUT BY THE GREEK AND AMERICAN SIDES. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE HOPED WASHINGTON WOULD MOVE SWIFTLY TO APPROVE A DRAFT FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MORNING, APRIL 29, THEREBY ENDING ROUND II AND ENABLING CARAMANLIS TO MAKE A STATEMENT OF HIS OWN, CONSISTENT WITH THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ON THE SAME DAY.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE US AND GREEK SIDES RESUMED THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING AND WORKED OUT THE FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT FOR A FINAL COMMUNIQUE: BEGIN TEXT:

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DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES MET IN ATHENS APRIL 7 - 29 FOR A SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIAT

DX CONCERNING MUTUAL DEFENSE MATTERS. THE GREEK AND US DELEGATIONS, LED RESPECTIVELY BY AMBASSADOR PETROS CALOGERAS AND MINISTER MONTEAGLE STEARNS, DISCUSSED ALL ASPECTS OF GREEK-US MILITARY COOPERATION. IN THE SECOND

ROUND:

AT GREEK REQUEST THE US AGREED TO TERMINATE HOMEPORTING IN ELEFSIS.

THE US BASE AT HELLENIKON WILL BE CLOSED. CERTAIN US FACILITIES DEEMED TO CONTRIBUTE TO GREEK DEFENSE NEEDS WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THE GREEK AIR FORCE BASE AT HELLENIKON.

AGREEMENT IS ALSO EXPECTED ON THE ELIMINATION, REDUCTIONS AND CONSOLIDATION OF OTHER US FACILITIES IN GREECE.

THE PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND EXEMPTIONS OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN GREECE WERE REVIEWED AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.

THE FACILITIES WHERE US ACTIVITIES REMAIN WILL BE PLACED UNDER GREEK COMMANDERS. THE SCOPE AND CONDITIONS OF OPERATION OF THE FACILITIES TO REMAIN WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN A THIRD ROUND.

5. COMMENT: THE ABOVE DRAFT SEEMS TO US A REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON THE POINTS THAT HAVE BEEN AT ISSUE. MOST IMPORTANT, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO REFERENCE TO TATOI AND THE GREEK SIDE CONCEDES PUBLICLY A CONTINUING US PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON. THE REFERENCE TO "ELIMINATION, REDUCTION AND CONSOLIDATION OF OTHER US FACILITIES IN GREECE" IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE TATOI PROBLEM AS WELL AS THE POSSIBLE CLOSING OF NON-ESSENTIAL FACILITIES LIKE THE LORAN MONITORING STATION AT RHODES. THE PARAGRAPHS ON HOMEPORTING MAKES CLEAR THAT OUR AGREEMENT TO TERMINATE HOMEPORTING WAS "AT GREEK REQUEST" AND SHOULD PROTECT US FROM ANY POSSIBLE BREACH OF CONTRACT ACTION BY THE GREEK CONTRACTOR IF AGREEMENT ON CONTINUED USE OF THE PIER AND RELATED FACILITIES IS NOT ACHIEVED.

6. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT IT IS IN US INTERESTS TO APPROVE THE DRAFT TEXT FOR ISSUANCE TOMORROW MORNING, APRIL  
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29 (ATHENS TIME) AS A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF ROUND II IN THE US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES PERCEIVE PROBLEMS IN APPROVING THIS DRAFT AS A JOINT REPEAT JOINT STATEMENT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ADVISE THE GREEKS THAT THE TEXT COULD BE RELEASED BY THEM AND WOULD NOT TAKE PUBLIC EXCEPTION TO IT. OUR PREFERENCE, HOWEVER, FOR REASONS SET FORTH IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES, IS TO HAVE THE TEXT RELEASED AS A JOINT STATEMENT.

8. SINCE DICTATING ABOVE, CALOGERAS HAS CALLED STEARNS TO SAY THAT CARAMANLIS HAS APPROVED THE TEXT GIVEN IN PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE. CALOGERAS REPEATED THE PRIME MINISTER'S URGENT REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON CONCUR IN THIS TEXT FOR ISSUANCE AS A JOINT STATEMENT TOMORROW MORNING, TUESDAY,

APRIL 29 (ATHENS TIME).

KUBISCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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